

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S
BUDGET AND BOND HEARING PRESENTATION**
16 January 2003

PRESENT Richard D'Amato, Chairman
John E. Ruonala, Vice-Chairman
Nancy A. Amato, Member
Noreen A. O'Connell, Member
Cynthia A. Herman, Member
Katherine E.L. Chambers, Town Administrator
All Department Heads & Senior Staff
Board of Fire Wards
Wadleigh Memorial Trustees
Conservation Commission Members
Members of the Public

BUDGET COMMITTEE ATTENDEES:
Kevin Anderson, Chairman
Terry Parker
Deanna Carter
Joseph Stella
Ryan Hansen
Terry Nostrand
Teresa Orani-Muller

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman D'Amato opened the Public Hearing on the issuance of Bonds and Notes at 6:30 p.m. and noted to the audience that the first issue of business was to address the Bond Articles that are on the current Town Meeting Warrant as well as the entire budget. The meeting opened with a discussion and briefing on the Bond Articles.

WARRANT ARTICLE 3 -Chairman D'Amato read Article 3 as follows:

ARTICLE 3 – Police, Ambulance & Public Works Facility - \$5,175,000

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,175,000 (Five Million One Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars) for the construction, renovation and equipping thereof of a Milford Police (\$2,282,400) & Ambulance Facility (\$908,616) to be located at the current DPW Facility on South Street and further to authorize the construction of a new DPW Garage and facilities (\$1,903,050) on Town-owned land on Perry Road (BROX site), in addition water and sewer will have to be brought to the DPW site (\$80,934) and to authorize the Selectmen to raise this appropriation by borrowing not more than \$5,175,000 under the Municipal Finance Act, (RSA 33) and to issue bonds, bond anticipation notes, or notes therefor, and to determine the rate of interest thereon, to be repaid from general taxation, and to authorize the Selectmen to contract for and expend any Federal or State aid that may be available for this project and to authorize the Selectmen to take all other necessary action to carry out this project. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee does not support this Article. This is a Special Article IAW RSA 32.

NB: (It is estimated that the town will receive \$640,000 in Impact Fees as revenue to offset the cost of this construction borrowing.)

NB: (As this is a bond issue, this vote requires, under State law, sixty (60%) percent affirmative vote to pass.) This is a 20-year bond issue and this Article does not impact the tax rate until 2004 and will then have an estimated tax impact of 64 cents.

Selectman Amato presented Warrant Article 3 noting that although the Budget Advisory Committee did not support the proposal the Board of Selectmen felt it was important to present it as a long-term solution. The Police Department Administration, the Ambulance Department, the Patrolman's Union, and the Teamsters Union support

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this proposal. Selectman Amato advised that this proposal would address the long-term needs of almost every Town Department, and most specifically the Police Department, the Ambulance Department, and the Public Works Department. Selectman Amato also noted that it would bring the Police and Ambulance Departments closer to the 101 Bypass allowing for faster response times and it would provide greater visibility for the Police Department. Selectman Amato advised that it would also bring safe salt and sand storage for the Department of Public Works. Following a more detailed explanation of the proposal Selectman Amato opened the floor for any questions

Kevin Anderson, Chairman of the Budget Advisory Committee noted that while the Budget Advisory Committee did not support this proposal they did support the need for a new Police Station. The Budget Advisory Committee's view was that the proposal that was put forth would have to be one that had the chance to gain the support of the Town on voting day. Mr. Anderson noted that the Budget Advisory Committee's support has gone to another proposal.

Bob Willette, Milford citizen, requested clarification regarding the Impact Fees and whether they existed because they were directly related to the Fire Station or because of the construction that is going on in Town. He questioned if they were only received because they were building the Fire Station. Chairman D'Amato responded that Katie Chambers, Town Administrator, would explain the Impact Fees. Town Administrator Chambers noted that at last years Town Meeting the Town authorized the implementation of more Impact Fees. She elaborated on the type and scope of current Impact Fees and how that would reduce the cost of the proposal. Mr. Willette further clarified that it was still an increase in taxes.

Tim O'Connell, Milford citizen, addressed the group and noted that he originally thought that the proposal would address many of the problems for the immediate and long-term needs of the Town. Mr. O'Connell then admitted that he had concerns regarding the cost of the proposal and the present location of the DPW Facility on South Street. Mr. O'Connell noted that he had three very specific questions 1) At the present time are the salt and sand storage facilities in need of being addressed in regards to it's affect on Great Brook? If that is so, then some resolution will be needed. 2) Will we address those issues of salt storage and drains on that site? 3) If we are not going to address question number two then are we looking in the near future, say three to five years, at satellite storage in a place like BROX, that therefore would require us building a facility to store the salt with supportive facilities, equipment, loaders, etc? Mr. O'Connell further went on to say that if the answer to those three questions comes to disclose that there are some problems there, he would question our wisdom in not looking very seriously at this proposal. Chairman D'Amato inquired if Bill Ruoff, DPW Director could answer those questions. Bill Ruoff, Public Works Director, addressed the questions by means of explaining that the engineering work would address the issues. Mr. O'Connell requested of Mr. Ruoff an estimate of what it would take to address these issues. Mr. Ruoff responded to Mr. O'Connell's question by saying that it was too early to tell what the costs would be.

Mervin Newton, Milford citizen, asked to read a letter from Steve Takacs that had been submitted to the Board of Selectmen's Office that afternoon. Chairman D'Amato explained that Mr. Takacs letter addressed Warrant Article 4 and that we were still discussing Warrant Article 3, but that it would be read when Warrant Article 4 was presented.

Selectman Amato added that this proposal would address the long-term space needs of the Town and that only a few issues would be left to be addressed for our long-term space planning. Renovations would still be needed at the Fire Station, a Fire Substation would be required on the west side of Town and whatever Library expansions that would be considered necessary. Selectman Amato noted that everything else would be done if this proposal passed and then requested that Mr. Ruoff explain if the DPW facility was on the BROX property, how long could it be expected to last, and if a substation would be required. Mr. Ruoff explained that the DPW Facility on BROX would meet the Town's needs for at least fifteen years, if not longer and that the South Street Facility was very limited in it's ability to expand, though at the moment there is enough space to respond to a storm event.

John Nevin, Milford citizen questioned as to whether the Town still owned the Bales School and if it was currently empty. Chairman D'Amato responded that it was. Mr. Nevin inquired if the Bales School had been considered for the Police Station. Chairman D'Amato responded that the Jacques School was still at that location and that anything put there would have to require that it not have a lot of vehicles or traffic associated with it. Mr. Nevin responded saying it seemed to be the most cost effective solution. Selectman Amato added that the space at Bales School was mostly inside space, and that the Police Station would require a great deal of outside space for parking vehicles for the public, police vehicles and the vehicles of the officers who were on duty. Selectman Amato further added that there just was not enough space available at that site. Mr. Willette inquired as to if the first two floors of the Bales School were used by the School District. Chairman D'Amato responded that he did not know, and asked that Peter Bragdon, Chairman of the School Board respond to the question. Mr. Bragdon replied that he believed that the Boys

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and Girls Club rented out part of the space for programs, and the remaining space is only used for School Board storage. Mr. Bragdon noted that he was 80% certain of his answer.

Chairman D'Amato then read the following list of sites that had been considered for the site of the Police Station:

1. The current police station site
2. The current fire station site plus adjacent properties
3. Garden Street School
4. Bales School
5. PSNH on Elm Street
6. IGA #1 on Elm Street in plaza with Blake's
7. IGA #2 on Elm Street in Granite Town Plaza
8. GSI on Elm Street
9. Milford Lumber on Elm Street
10. Milford Ford on North River Road
11. Cutts' property on South Street
12. Little Arrows on South Street
13. Moran building on Armory Road
14. Permattach building on Elm Street

Chairman D'Amato asked if there were any further questions on Warrant Article 3. There were no responses.

WARRANT ARTICLE 4 - Chairman D'Amato introduced Warrant Article 4 by noting that the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Advisory Committee have agreed to replace Article 4 with a Police Facility on the BROX property for \$3,200,000. Chairman D'Amato added that the possibility of purchasing the Permattach building was a concept that had been developed over the past several months. Chairman D'Amato noted that he felt that the building had some drawbacks; there was some question as to the time needed for the environmental studies, and that the Policeman's Union did not support this site due to the potential of contamination issues. Therefore, the Board of Selectmen would like to propose a version of last year's proposal to build the new Police Facility at a cost of \$3,200,000 with a cost increase associated with placing it on the BROX property on Perry Road. Chairman D'Amato read the Warrant Article as follows:

ARTICLE 4 – Police Facility - \$3,200,000

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,200,000 (Three Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars) for the construction and equipping thereof of a Milford Police Facility on Town-owned land on Perry Road (BROX site), and to bring water, sewer and road to the site as required, and to authorize the Selectmen to raise this appropriation by borrowing not more than \$3,200,000 under the Municipal Finance Act, (RSA 33) and to issue bonds, bond anticipation notes, or notes therefore, and to determine the rate of interest thereon, to be repaid from general taxation, and to authorize the Selectmen to contract for and expend any Federal or State aid that may be available for this project and to authorize the Selectmen to take all other necessary action to carry out this project. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article. This is a Special Article IAW RSA 32.

NB: (It is estimated that the town will receive \$640,000 in Impact Fees as revenue to offset the cost of this construction borrowing.)

NB: (As this is a bond issue, this vote requires, under State law, sixty (60%) percent affirmative vote to pass.) This is a 20-year bond issue and this Article does not impact the tax rate until 2004 and will then have an estimated tax impact of 40 cents.

(Note: The following Warrant Article, as posted and published was withdrawn)

ARTICLE 4 – Police & Ambulance Facility - \$3,800,000

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,800,000 (Three Million Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars) for the purchase of the land and building

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located at Map 19 Lot 10, on Elm Street (the former Permattach building) and for the construction, renovation and equipping thereof of a Milford Police & Ambulance Facility on this site, and to authorize the Selectmen to raise this appropriation by borrowing not more than \$3,800,000 under the Municipal Finance Act, (RSA 33) and to issue bonds, bond anticipation notes, or notes therefore, and to determine the rate of interest thereon, to be repaid from general taxation, and to authorize the Selectmen to contract for and expend any Federal or State aid that may be available for this project and to authorize the Selectmen to take all other necessary action to carry out this project. The Board of Selectmen does not support this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee does not support this Article. This is a Special Article IAW RSA 32.

NB: (It is estimated that the town will receive \$640,000 in Impact Fees as revenue to offset the cost of this construction borrowing.)

NB: (As this is a bond issue, this vote requires, under State law, sixty (60%) percent affirmative vote to pass.) This is a 20-year bond issue and this Article does not impact the tax rate until 2004 and will then have an estimated tax impact of 47 cents.

Chairman D'Amato noted that the letter Mr. Newton had mentioned earlier in the evening that was written by Mr. Takacs said in essence that Mr. Takacs was not in favor of the Permattach site for the Construction of the new Police Facility due to cost etc. Chairman D'Amato then read Mr. Takacs' letter, which is attached hereto and made a permanent part of these records. Chairman D'Amato noted that the letter was one person's opinion, and he was certain there were others.

Chairman D'Amato advised that the Board of Selectmen have replaced Warrant Article 4 with the proposal to situate the new Police Station on the BROX property site. Chairman D'Amato then introduced Selectman O'Connell to present the new proposal and noted that the Budget Advisory Committee supported this proposal.

Selectman O'Connell advised that a great deal of time, effort and thought had gone into the proposal for building a new Police Station Facility, and as far as the Board of Selectmen have been concerned it has been a priority for this year. Selectman O'Connell noted that the Police Facility being placed at the BROX property would work. Selectman O'Connell added that a facility of sufficient size could be built there to meet the needs of a growing Town, and that it is the Board of Selectmen's hope that this site and facility would meet the needs of the Town for twenty years, dependent on Town growth. Selectman O'Connell continued to list additional benefits to building a new facility at the BROX site. She then noted that there was potential for other funding sources, and that the funding sources were not just the Town Bonding, however the Town could not apply for any other funding sources until one proposal is chosen. Selectman O'Connell noted that Impact Fees and grants might be able to lower the costs. Selectman O'Connell then advised that the down sides that have been mentioned at this site are that the site is out of the way, however it is believed that the majority of future growth will be in the west side of Town, where this site is. There is also unfortunately a possibility of having to build a Police Substation in the downtown area sometime in the future because the main station would be on the other side of Town. Selectman O'Connell concluded by saying that there were bulletins up with further pictures and if there were any questions, she would be glad to help.

Mr. Anderson noted that this was the proposal that the Budget Advisory Committee supported for a variety of reasons. Mr. Anderson noted that the proposal for the BROX site came without the concerns of environmental issues and with the support of the police employees. Mr. Anderson noted that with Impact Fees taken into consideration that were not available last year, this proposal would end up being less expensive than the previous year's proposal. Mr. Anderson added additional benefits that this site would hold.

Chairman D'Amato asked to hear from the Police Chief and the two Police Captains. Fred Douglas, Chief of Police, first advised that he would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard over the last three years to develop proposals for a new Police Station. Chief Douglas spoke in support of the BROX site, however he noted that the South Street proposal was a better option for the long-term, but that they did not believe the Town of Milford taxpayers would support the \$5,600,000 proposal. Chief Douglas noted that the Police Station change was a critical one, and that there was a need to move forward. Police Captain Fortin introduced himself and reiterated the concerns that Chief Douglas had made. Captain Fortin agreed that the South Street proposal would be the best long-term solution but that he felt that the Town would not support it. Captain Fortin added that given that fact, he felt that the BROX site placement of the new Police Station was the best alternative available.

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Chairman D'Amato asked if anyone had anything further to add.

Alan Hicks, Milford citizen, added a few points. Mr. Hicks pointed out that 1) the BROX land was not free, that the Town did own it, but if the Town were to build on that industrial site it would deprive the Town of future taxes from industry 2) that it does not satisfy the needs of the Ambulance group 3) that the old Police Station would have to be torn down and that piece of property would be sold or something should be done with it so it has an effective use 4) Mr. Hicks asked for an explanation of the Impact Fees that have been mentioned. Mr. Hicks asked if the Impact Fees would be received by the Town regardless of whether the Police Station is moved or not. Chairman D'Amato responded that the Impact Fees would be received as long as the Town initiates one of the two projects. Chairman D'Amato further explained the concept and use of Impact Fees. Mr. Anderson added further clarification to Mr. Hicks's inquiries.

Faye Richey, Milford citizen, asked if the Ambulance facility were not built now, when would it need to be addressed? Chairman D'Amato responded that in his opinion, three to five years, but that it might not be everyone's opinions. Bert Becker, Milford citizen, had questions regarding water lines and septic or sewer lines being brought to the site. Chairman D'Amato responded that the BROX site would have a 4" water line and a septic system. Selectman Amato added that what the Warrant Article cited was a 4" water main down Perry road for the BROX site. Selectman Amato suggested however, that the best thing to do while the road was being dug up was to put in a 8" or a 12" water line to better support future growth of the industrial area and that costs were being considered.

John Levin, Milford, citizen, spoke toward the redundancy of having the NH State Police, the Milford Police, and the Wilton Police stations within a mile of each other. Mr. Levin asked if it had ever been considered to have the three combined into one building. Chairman D'Amato replied that there had been none. Mr. Levin replied that it should have been looked at because they were so close. Chairman D'Amato noted that in his estimation it would be difficult to make such a proposal happen.

Judy Parker, Milford citizen, noted that bringing water and sewer to the BROX land would have to improve the value of the land which the Town may use or sell for industrial purposes. Ms. Parker noted that without water and sewer that the land would not be developed as easily, with them it would be a lot easier to provide industrial sites that would bring employment to the Town. Ms. Parker noted that bringing out water and sewer lines would be a good investment for the Town's future.

Mervin Newton added that placing a septic system out on the BROX site would not be a good idea given the amount of clay and granite at that site; that would make it so that it did not drain very well. Mr. Newton noted that a septic system typically has a life expectancy of fifteen years so why not bring the sewer line to that property because it could be used in the industrial park as well. Mr. Newton advised that a septic system for the Police Station would be a waste of money.

Selectman Amato advised that the Board of Selectmen had estimates of bringing water and sewer lines to that facility. Selectman Amato added that if it were done in the way that it really needs to be done in, it would be over a million dollars, just to bring it out to the Hendrix piece, so the short-term solution is a septic tank and a water main.

Chairman D'Amato advised that the Board of Selectmen would have a meeting after the Public Hearing to decide which Warrant Article would be on the ballot.

Chairman D'Amato noted that if there were no more questions on Warrant Article 4 he would close the Hearing on the Police Facilities Bond Articles at 7:15 p.m.

WARRANT ARTICLE 23 -

ARTICLE 23 - Operating Budget \$9,580,000

Shall the Town of Milford raise and appropriate, as an operating budget not including appropriations by Special Warrant Articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the Warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$9,580,000 (Nine Million, Five Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars). Should this Article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$9,380,000 (Nine Million Three Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous actions of the Town, or

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by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

The Board of Selectmen supports this 2003 Operating Budget Article. The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Operating Budget Article.

NB: The budget contains the following new positions: (Assistant Planner & Fire Department Training Officer). This Article has an estimated tax impact of one dollar and nineteen cents.

(The listing below is for your budget review process. It is depicted in the Town Warrant and Report for your information but will not be on the March Ballot.)

DEPARTMENT	02APP	02EXPND	03REQ	02BudCom
Board of Selectmen	74,218	60,240	69,413	69,413
Administration	182,092	177,187	148,849	148,849
Legal Services	117,979	174,358	200,000	200,000
Finance Administration	164,622	163,184	157,868	157,868
Human Resources	0	0	54,206	54,206
Information Systems	128,100	117,914	138,880	138,880
Elections and Registrations	15,425	14,445	12,357	12,357
Assessing	129,671	127,366	134,409	134,409
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	152,267	145,599	160,753	160,753
Police Dept	1,494,262	1,379,881	1,604,651	1,604,651
Fire Department	345,822	328,669	363,346	363,346
Emergency Management	1,750	1,899	15,000	15,000
Building Inspection	111,048	108,361	115,141	115,141
Other Public Safety	295,893	295,893	317,823	317,823
DPW Administration	70,091	67,086	72,316	72,316
Highways/Streets	702,524	650,526	798,428	798,428
Other Hwy/Streets	75,800	64,762	68,600	68,600
Planning	113,012	115,399	147,596	147,596
Zoning Board of Appeals	2,675	2,870	2,800	2,800
Other Planning & Development	12,212	12,214	15,074	15,074]
Ambulance Service	376,057	388,486	445,875	445,875
Welfare Department	119,414	200,736	175,001	175,001
Other Human Services	0	0	9,295	9,295
Town Buildings	138,988	132,557	160,924	160,924
Cemeteries	84,006	102,082	94,517	94,517
Parks Maintenance	72,630	60,273	115,176	115,176
Parks Recreation	61,653	61,653	80,000	80,000
Library	511,362	511,362	535,239	535,239
Conservation Commission	4,000	4,000	10,844	10,844
Patriotic Purposes	0	0	0	0
Other Culture & Recreation	0	0	2,820	2,820
Transfer Station	723,353	793,953	809,712	809,712
Debt Service/Fees	894,173	893,577	1,074,710	1,074,710
Fringe Benefits/Costs	1,182,028	1,127,987	1,371,468	1,371,468
Insurance	86,773	73,858	96,909	96,909
TOTAL	8,443,900	8,358,377	9,580,000	9,580,000
(UNAUDITED)				

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Chairman D'Amato advised that the operating budget contained two new positions, one is an Assistant Planner, and the other is the Fire Department Training Officer, which would add another full-time person to the Fire Department to answer daytime calls. Chairman D'Amato advised that last year the Town voted for a default budget and that this year some of what was lost was restored in this proposed budget, and some was not restored. Chairman D'Amato indicated that the 2003 budget had a roughly a 12% increase over 2002, and noted that ordinarily the budget increases 5% to 6% annually, but that given the default budget of 2002, many services in 2002 had to be cut as well as not being able to purchase Police Cruisers and such. After conferring with the Budget Advisory Committee, the Budget Advisory Committee and the Board of Selectmen were in concurrence that in order to operate the Town properly a budget of approximately \$9,580,000 was needed. Chairman D'Amato then opened the floor for questions.

Mr. Hicks addressed the Board of Selectmen, the Budget Advisory Committee, and audience indicating that in his opinion the reason that a default budget was voted by the Town was that year after year the budget had gone up too fast. Mr. Hicks further indicated that it was his belief that the increase in the proposed budget was 13.5 % this year, because the Town was attempting to get back what had been lost but if the voter's had meant the Town to have it, they would have given it to them last year. Mr. Hicks further advised that there were items taken out of the budget in 2002 and added them as Warrant Articles for 2003 and that in order to make a fair comparison the compensative Warrant Articles should be added to the proposed budget and then compare it to the default budget from last year. Mr. Hicks indicated that that would then be about a 13.8% increase. Mr. Hicks then inquired how the Budget Advisory Committee justified that. Chairman D'Amato responded by mentioning that he felt that the budget failed last year because the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Advisory Committee did not agree. Chairman D'Amato further stated that he felt that if there had been agreement, the budget would have passed.

Mervin Newton addressed the Board of Selectmen, Budget Advisory Committee, and the audience. Mr. Newton advised that last March the voters had decided that the budget was too much. Mr. Newton added that then the Town decided that they did not care what the voters decided, went ahead, and gave 4% raises anyway. Mr. Newton stated that the published data for Hillsborough County for the year of 2000 – 2001 was 0.03% and yet the Town gave out 4% raises anyway. Mr. Newton indicated that the Town should stop over spending. Chairman D'Amato replied by indicating that the increase was due to Union contacts. Mr. Hicks further questioned if there was any equipment that was not in the Warrant Articles that was in the budget. Chairman D'Amato replied that there were two Police Cruisers. Mr. Hicks inquired if there was any other equipment. Chairman D'Amato replied that no, there was not. Mr. Hicks indicated that he wanted to know all of the equipment that was in the budget. Town Administrator Chambers replied that there was a half a truck, a replacement vehicle for DPW that would be shared by the DPW and the Water Department and that the DPW half was in the budget. Chairman D'Amato advised that the main way the budget was balanced last year was by taking monies from the Police Department that would have purchased vehicles and by not filling open positions. Chairman D'Amato further added that it was felt that the Police Department should be restored this year. Chairman D'Amato indicated that the Town was growing and that the budget had to grow with it.

Mr. Anderson, replied that the justification for the budget increase was obtained by long and careful consideration, which included meeting with each department head, and concluded that the \$10.1 million budget was much more than they would support and the Board of Selectmen concurred. Mr. Anderson further indicated that how the default budget was calculated had changed, that they had taken into account last year's budget, with adjustments, for various things required by previous actions of the Town or by law. The Board of Selectmen have identified a new approach to calculating the default budget, which came in at 9.4 million, and that that was something that was at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Anderson indicated as an example that the Welfare budget had increased and that it was required by law that assistance is given to those in need and that it was not expected to decrease in the coming year. Mr. Anderson continued by saying that many of the same concerns he was hearing tonight had been raised and had been expressed to the Board of Selectmen. In the end, it was felt that the 9.58 million could be supported. Mr. Anderson noted that it had been requested of the Board of Selectmen that a sharper pencil be taken to the default budget to bring it down further and the Board of Selectmen did do that. Mr. Anderson then indicated that at the Deliberative Session it would be more specifically defined what would be cut if the budget fails.

Chairman D'Amato advised that there had been an increase in benefits costs. He added that the Town employee's contributions toward benefits would be more closely looked at and well as raises in the future. He gave as an example the Town's Workman's Compensation rates was unexpectedly raised \$25,000 recently.

Gil Archanbault, Milford citizen, noted that every state in America was just about going bust except for Vermont. Mr. Archanbault indicated that here in a small Town we were wrestling with property tax increases, that senior

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citizens have fixed incomes and that in four years the property taxes have increased by \$700, where was that money supposed to come from, how are people supposed to pay. He further indicated that if property taxes increased there would be no influx of growth because no one could afford to live here.

Chairman D'Amato replied to Mr. Archanbault's comments by advising that the Town portion of the tax rate had gone up zero last year and that it had gone up exactly \$0.03 (per \$1,000) over the last three years, therefore, based on a house assessed at \$150,000 the Town portion went up exactly \$4.50 in three years. In twelve years, the Town's portion has gone up \$240 – about \$20 a year, to run Police, Fire and everything else, which Chairman D'Amato felt was very, very good. Chairman D'Amato went on to further say that 80% of the tax rate was coming from the schools. He noted that as the Town portion was raised by \$4.50, the school portion was raised \$450 and that since 1988; the school portion has increased \$1,900. Chairman D'Amato advised that he was not berating the schools; they have had schools to build and more students to educate, but when the Board of Selectmen and Budget Advisory Committee are challenged that citizens cannot afford the taxes, he has to say that the Town tax rate has been very good. He added that this year there was a greater increase in the Town tax rate given the need to address issues following the default budget, but that the Board of Selectmen have worked very hard to keep it down considerably. In closing, Chairman D'Amato stated that it was a tribute to the Town workers' dedication to their jobs and that they ran the Town very efficiently.

ARTICLE 9 – Land Use Change Tax Fund

To see if the Town shall adopt the provisions of NH RSA 79-A:25 II, to account for revenue from the land use change tax in a fund separate from the general fund. Any surplus remaining in the land use change fund shall not be part of the general fund until such time as the legislative body shall have the opportunity, at an annual meeting, to vote to appropriate a specific amount from the land use change tax fund for any purpose not prohibited by the laws or by the constitution of this state. After an annual meeting any unappropriated balance of the land use change tax revenue received during the prior fiscal year shall be recognized as general fund revenue for the current fiscal year, or take any other action relative thereto. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee does not this Article. This Article has only an indirect impact on the tax rate annually, ranging from nothing to approximately 13 cents.

ARTICLE 10 – Conservation Commission – Land Use Change Tax Fund

To see if the Town will vote to deposit fifty percent (50%), to a maximum of \$100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars) yearly, of revenues collected pursuant to NH RSA 79-A (Land Use Change Tax) into the Conservation Land Fund in accordance with NH RSA 36-A:5 III, as authorized by NH RSA 79-A:25 II, or take any other action relative thereto. The Selectmen recommend this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee does not support this Article.

ARTICLE 11 - Conservation Commission Land Fund \$50,000

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 (Fifty Thousand Dollars) to be added to the established "Conservation Land Fund" created IAW RSA 36-A, said fund together with any future additions thereto the sum to be allowed to accumulate from year to year and be available for the acquisition of property and other conservation purposes pursuant to RSA 36-A, or take any other action relative thereto. By request of the Conservation Commission. FYI-Money in the Land Fund can only be expended by the Conservation Commission after a public hearing & approval of the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article. This Article has an estimated tax impact of 7 cents. The Land Fund has an estimated balance of \$300.

WARRANT ARTICLES 9, 10, & 11 - Chairman D'Amato presented Warrant Article 9 and 10 by introducing Diane Fitzpatrick, Conservation Commission Chairperson. Ms. Fitzpatrick started the discussion by giving a brief overview of the Current Land Use Tax. She explained that when a property comes out current use, and becomes a development, there is a tax that is calculated at 10% of the value of the property. That money is paid to the Town as Current Land Use Change Tax. Ms. Fitzpatrick noted that the Town is losing open space to development all the time

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and that the tax should be used to replace some of that open space. The Conservation Commission feels that it is important to protect open space for many reasons. She mentioned some specific projects that took place last year that befitted the Town by conserving land from future development; residential property is tax negative. Ms. Fitzpatrick noted that this was a good time to be addressing this issue, if surrounding towns were good indicators. Brookline places 100% of its Current Use Land Tax aside, Hollis and Amherst place 50% aside, Merrimack places 100% aside, and Milford does not place any of the tax toward setting aside more open space. It is used to offset the tax rate via the general fund. Ms. Fitzpatrick noted that the Warrant shows a very minimal amount that is being asked for, the maximum tax rate it could be (if the actual \$100,000 was received) is \$0.13 per thousand. She advised that at last year's vote the Conservation Commission requested \$25,000 for the Land Fund in a Warrant Article and it was overwhelmingly approved, it is her belief that the voters are ready to do some serious land protection. Ms. Fitzpatrick explained that by protecting open spaces the Town would be protecting scenic vistas, groundwater, and it would also give areas for passive recreation.

Chairman D'Amato then explained that Warrant Article 11 would place \$50,000 into the Conservation Fund, and every year there is a Warrant Article placed on the ballot for this purpose. If Article 9 were adopted, then 50% of the Current Land Use Change Tax, up to a maximum of \$100,000, would be placed into the conservation fund.

Mr. Anderson advised that he would be discussing Warrant Articles 9, 10 and 11 together. He indicated that the Budget Advisory Committee had discussed and reviewed these Warrant Articles and initially they had supported Warrant Article 11, to contribute the \$50,000 to the land fund. There were strong arguments on both sides, but in the end they preferred that money be not contributed perpetually, but rather have it asked for yearly. Mr. Anderson noted that the decision went back to the Budget Advisory Committee making the most appropriate choices for where the money should be spent.

ARTICLE 5 - Keyes Pool Facility Rehab & Safety Issues - \$250,000

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 (Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars) for safety, mechanical and structural repairs to Keyes Pool (Main Pool & "Kiddie" Pool) and to the facilities supporting pool activities (Pool & pool maintenance, including filter replacement and installation of a 2nd filter, addition of an additional drain & skimmer, installing new chlorine feeders and controllers for both pools and, electrical & building upgrades, painting and Sandblasting of the pools) or take any other action relative thereto. By request of the Recreation Commission. (The pool should not open in 2003 without these repairs.) The Board of Selectmen supports this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article. This is a Special Article IAW RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of 33 cents.

WARRANT ARTICLE 5 - Chairman D'Amato introduced Warrant Article 5 as being the needed repair of the Keyes Field Pool and then asked for any questions.

Mr. Anderson advised that the repairs needed were required for the Town to open the pool and felt that it was an important facility for the Town. The critical piece of information for the Budget Advisory Committee was that would cost \$750,000 to build a new facility.

Chairman D'Amato asked if there were any questions, there were not.

ARTICLE 6 – Kaley Park - \$100,000

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars) for construction of a turning lane into Kaley Park and parking lot renovations for St. Joseph's Medical Center in order to provide entrance to a Kaley Park access road, said turning lane to commence west of the St. Joseph Medical Center to service east bound, left turning traffic into the field and the Zoning Board of Adjustment required this turning lane before two fields can be used, or take any other action relative thereto. This is a non-lapsing Article IAW RSA and shall not lapse until 31 December 2007 or upon completion of this project, whichever occurs first. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee does not support this Article. This Article has an estimated tax impact of 13 cents. This is a Special Article IAW RSA 32.

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WARRANT ARTICLE 6 - Chairman D'Amato asked if there were any questions on Kaley Park, Warrant Article 6. He then noted that the Budget Advisory Committee did not support this Warrant Article and asked if Selectman O'Connell wished to speak towards it. Selectman O'Connell noted that the Town was short of field space, as was heard quite frequently, and that the Town owned the land for Kaley Park. She noted that this was phase one for construction of a turning lane for the park, and that the park itself would be completed in future years. She noted that given the fiscal situation, it was felt that it was best to just start the first phase.

Mr. Anderson noted that the Budget Advisory Committee did not support this Article as it was felt that monies could be better spent elsewhere. They understood the need for more field space but thought that it should not be supported at this time.

ARTICLE 7 – West Street/Osgood Road Sidewalk Construction

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$135,000 (One Hundred Thirty Five Thousand Dollars) said funding to consist of \$98,024 of Federal Transportation Enhancement funds and the balance \$36,976 to be raised by general taxation to accomplish the following project:

1. Excavate and install a new six foot wide asphalt sidewalk from the High School parking lot entrance to the intersection of Osgood Road for approximately 1520 LF including grading, paving, loaming and landscaping;
2. Excavate and install a new paved parking area from the High School parking lot entrance just beyond the football field fence, approximately 694 LF, to include gravel, granite curb, drainage and paving; and
3. Excavate and install a new 6 foot wide asphalt sidewalk from the Middle School parking lot entrance to the intersection of West Street approximately 810 LF, to include gravel, paving loam and landscaping.

(This project is designed for angle and/or parallel parking to be determined as construction/drainage work allows.) This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the sidewalk is completed or by 31 December 2005, whichever is sooner. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article. This is a Special Article IAW RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of 5 cents.

NB: This Article is back on the warrant again as the Town did not receive the approval for the Federal funds/construction activities from NH DOT during 2002. We also were not able to carry forward last year's (2002) Town Meeting appropriation into 2003 due to the wording of that vote.

WARRANT ARTICLE 7 - Chairman D'Amato introduced Warrant Article 7 by noting that it has been proposed three years in a row. He further explained that it was believed that the construction would have taken place this year, but the matching funds for the State did not come through in time and it was not written as a non-lapsing Warrant Article so it needed to be revisited.

Chairman D'Amato then introduced William Ruoff, DPW Director to further explain the situation and noted that the funds for this Article that passed last year were reappropriated to the General Fund to reduce the 2002 tax rate. Mr. Ruoff indicated that the Warrant Article passed last year expired on December 31, 2002 without construction having been done, so it needed to be returned to the ballot this year. He noted that even though the project had been around for a few years, it was a viable project, that the Town does have the funding from the State, and that the reason it was not completed in 2002 was that the State did not have the necessary paperwork finished on time.

Chairman D'Amato asked if there were any questions and there were not.

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ARTICLE 8 - Land Purchase/Engineering Costs for new Prospect Hill Water Tank \$95,000

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$95,000 (Ninety Five Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of purchasing land for the water department to construct a new water storage tank on. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article. This is a Special Article IAW RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of 12 cents.

WARRANT ARTICLE 8 - Chairman D'Amato asked Mr. Ruoff if he wished to speak about Warrant Article 8. Mr. Ruoff indicated that a few years ago the 10-year Master Water Plan identified the need for a new water storage tank on Prospect Hill. The current tank was built in the late 1800's and has a 250,000-gallon capacity. Based on hydraulic modeling and based on the need for fire protection in the Town, we need at least a 1,250,000-gallon capacity water tank. The proposed Warrant Article would purchase land for the new tank, next year there would be a new Warrant Article for the construction of the tank and its connection to the distribution system on Prospect Hill.

Mr. Anderson noted that this Warrant Article would buy a lot of land that is more than sufficient for the needs of the project and therefore, is seen as a conservation effort as well. The Budget Advisory Committee supports it for these reasons.

Chuck Worcester, Milford citizen, questioned if this should be paid for by the Milford water users rather than the tax payers, noting that it would be of the exclusive use of the water department and not for the general benefit of the entire population.

Mr. Ruoff responded by noting that the water tank would be of benefit to the entire community, not just for water users, the main intent of this tank would be to offer future capacity for fire protection.

Mr. Hicks inquired if this would replace the current Prospect Hill tank. Chairman D'Amato responded that yes, it would. Mr. Hicks further inquired if the Prospect land were available for sale. Chairman D'Amato responded that the piece of land was not very large and was not of sufficient size to build the new tank on to meet the needed capacity, but the land may be needed to run pipes to connect the new tank to the water distribution system.

ARTICLE 12 – Organization of the Fire Department

To see if the Town will vote to change the organization of the Fire Department in accordance with NH RSA 154:1, by eliminating the Board of Fire Wards and to establish the Fire Department organizational option identified in RSA 154:1, (I) (a), which provides that the "fire chief [is] appointed by the local governing body, or by the town or city manager, if any, with firefighters appointed by the fire chief", and, further, to adopt the provisions of RSA 154:5 (I) and (II), which provisions include, among other things, that the fire chief "... shall be appointed for an indefinite period of time... and the tenure of office shall depend upon good conduct and efficiency. ...", further that the fire chief shall have the authority to manage the fire department as set forth in RSA 154:5 (II), subject to "... such written formal policies as may be adopted by the appointing authority,...", and said chief "...shall be subject to suspension without pay or dismissal only for cause, and after he or she has been presented with a written specification of the reasons. ... Upon such suspension or dismissal, the ... fire chief shall be entitled to a hearing, on the merits and reasonableness of the action, in superior court in the county in which the municipality is located,..." all as provided in and subject to the provisions of said statute, or take any other action relative thereto. By request of the Board of Fire Wards. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article. This Article has no tax impact.

WARRANT ARTICLE 12 - Chairman D'Amato introduced Chief Pauley to present the Warrant Article. Chief Pauley noted that a separate Board of Fire Wards had administrated the Fire Department for many decades, and that it was a three member Board, with each member elected to three year staggered terms. In the history of the Fire Service in New Hampshire, many communities have had a Board of Fire Wards before they had full-time chiefs and full-time support staff. It is an independent Board but it is still subject to funding by the Town and it works closely

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with the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator. Chief Pauley further noted that he had recently met with the Board of Fire Wards and that they had agreed that it was time to make the change for the Town of Milford and eliminate the Board of Fire Wards and bring the Fire Chief under the administrative control of the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator. As the community has grown and continues to grow, it is felt that this change would be very helpful. It has the complete support of the Fire Wards, Board of Selectmen, and the Fire Chief.

Chairman D'Amato asked if there were any further questions and there were none.

ARTICLE 13 – Street Light Replacement Program - \$130,000

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$130,000 (One Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of purchasing, under a PSNH program, high efficiency street lights to replace existing street lights with an annual estimated cost savings of \$20,000 (Twenty Thousand Dollars), or take any other action relative thereto. The payback period on this investment is approximately 6 ½ years. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article. This Article is a Special Article IAW RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of 17 cents.

WARRANT ARTICLE 13 - Chairman D'Amato introduced the Warrant Article by noting that it had a payback period of approximately six and a half years; he asked if there were any questions and there were none.

ARTICLE 15 – Police Cruisers – \$54,382

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$54,382 (Fifty-Four Thousand, Three Hundred Eighty Two Dollars) for the purchasing and equipping of two police cruisers for the Milford Police Department, or take any other action relative thereto. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article. This is a Special Article IAW RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of 7 cents.

WARRANT ARTICLE 15 - Chairman D'Amato introduced the Warrant Article by noting that there were two Police Cruisers in the operating budget and there are these two additional cruisers in this Warrant Article. The reason that it was processed this way was due to the vehicle replacement schedule that was suspended following the vote of the default budget last year and would give voters an opportunity to decide on whether these two cruisers should be purchased. Chairman D'Amato noted that the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Advisory Committee both supported this Warrant Article. Chairman D'Amato asked if there were any questions, there were none.

ARTICLE 16 – New Ambulance \$82,000

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$82,000 (Eighty Two Thousand Dollars), to purchase a 2003 Type II Moduvan Ambulance, said Type II Moduvan Ambulance to meet KKK1822D Federal requirements and New Hampshire OEMS standards, and to authorize the trade-in or sale of the 1995 ambulance, and further, to authorize the withdrawal of \$12,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose. **The balance of \$70,000 is to come from general taxation**, or take any other action relative thereto. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article. This is a Special Warrant Article IAW RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of 9 cents.

WARRANT ARTICLE 16 - Chairman D'Amato asked if there were any questions on this Warrant Article.

Mr. Hicks inquired if the new ambulance would fit in the ambulance bay? Chairman D'Amato, Vice-Chairman Ruonala, and Eric Schelberg, Ambulance Director all answered yes.

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ARTICLE 17 – Paramedic Emergency Response Vehicle \$25,000

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 (Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars) to purchase and equip a previously owned 4-Wheel Drive paramedics' vehicle for use by the Ambulance Department, said vehicle to be equipped for response to incidents and for command/casualty functions at major accident scenes/mass casualty scenes etc., or take any other action relative thereto. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article. This is a Special Warrant Article IAW RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of 3 cents.

WARRANT ARTICLE 17 - Chairman D'Amato introduced the Warrant Article by noting that the Board of Selectmen and Budget Advisory Committee supported the Warrant Article and indicated that this would be a vehicle for the paramedics. Chairman D'Amato inquired if it was a four-wheel drive vehicle and Mr. Schelberg indicated that it was. Chairman D'Amato asked if there were any further questions and it was indicated that the vehicle could handle snow and was pre-owned.

ARTICLE 18 – Recycling Center Tri-Axle Vehicle w/Roll Offs - \$31,355

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a five (5) year lease purchase agreement for the purpose of lease purchasing a heavy duty Tri-axle cab and chassis with five (5) roll-off containers for use at the Transfer Station and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$31,355 (Thirty-One Thousand Three Hundred Fifty-Five Dollars) for the first year's payment for this purpose, or take any other action relative thereto. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article. This is a Special Warrant Article IAW RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of 4 cents. The purchase price of this vehicle is \$140,000. . The lease purchase agreement will have an funding contingency clause for the Town's protection. If this Article passes, subsequent year's payments will be included in the Operating Budget.

WARRANT ARTICLE 18 - Chairman D'Amato presented this Warrant Article by introducing Mr. Ruoff. Mr. Ruoff indicated that the Warrant Article was for a new tri-axle truck that would replace the two trucks that are currently owned by the Town and used at the Transfer Station. This would replace the old International dump truck that originally came from the Wastewater Treatment Facility and the old Freightliner tractor-trailer, both of which are inefficient for use at the Transfer Station and in need of being replaced. The tri-axle truck with the roll offs would initially haul the Town's recyclables that is currently being done inefficiently by the two old trucks and the plan is within a year to be able to haul our own demolition materials rather than having to hire outside resources to do it for the Town. Mr. Ruoff and Chairman D'Amato then asked if there were any questions and there were none.

ARTICLE 19 – Library Building Capital Reserve \$25,000

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of building an addition onto the existing Wadleigh Memorial Library and equipping thereof, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 (Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars) to be placed into this fund, and to designate the Library Trustees as agents to expend said funds, or take any other action relative thereto. By request of the Library Trustees. (Current plans are for the expansion to commence on or about 2006.) The Board of Selectmen supports this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee does not support this Article. This is a Special Article IAW RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of 3 cents. (This expansion is scheduled in the Capital Improvements Plan for 2007).

WARRANT ARTICLE 19 - Chairman D'Amato asked if there were any questions on this Warrant Article and there were none.

ARTICLE 20 - Highway Capital Reserve – South Street Project \$25,000

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 (Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars) to be paid into the established Highway Capital Reserve Fund for the

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construction and/or reconstruction of Class IV and Class V Highways, or take any other action relative thereto. (This appropriation is targeted for the South Street Widening Project.) The Board of Selectmen support this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee does not support this Article. This is a Special Article IAW RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of 3 cents.

WARRANT ARTICLE 20 - Chairman D'Amato introduced this Warrant Article by indicating that the Budget Advisory Committee did not support this Warrant Article and asked if Mr. Ruoff wanted to speak about it. Mr. Ruoff indicated that the Board of Selectmen and he felt that there was a need to reestablish a Highway Capital Reserve Fund. He noted that earlier this fall he had met with the State of New Hampshire and applied for funds for the rail crossings program. The Town has since been approved for a rail crossing replacement on South Street in 2005. He further indicated that it could be moved up to next year depending on how other area communities were or were not able to fund their replacements of railroad crossings. Mr. Ruoff also noted that the Union Street railroad crossing was approved and in the State plan for 2007. The Town share of the funds for replacing those railroad crossings would be \$20,000 each. Mr. Ruoff added that on South Street there should be roadway and sidewalk improvements considered in the near future.

Mr. Anderson addressed the audience by noting that while the Budget Advisory Committee liked to have improved roads, they have discussed capital reserves as a principal, and given the restrictions that are imposed on reserve funds as well as the cost of setting asides today's dollars for uncertain future projects, the Budget Advisory Committee has decided not to support any capital reserve Warrant Article.

ARTICLE 21 - Wastewater Treatment Operating Budget - \$1,483,261

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,483,261 (One Million, Four Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand, Two Hundred Sixty-One Dollars) to operate and maintain the Wastewater Treatment Facility and the Sanitary Sewer Collection System, said appropriation to be offset by income received from sewer users charges of an equal amount, or take any other action relative thereto. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article. This is a Special Warrant Article IAW RSA 32 and is paid for by the sewer user fees.

WARRANT ARTICLE 21 - Chairman D'Amato asked if there were any questions on this Warrant Article and there were none.

ARTICLE 22 - Water Department Operating Budget - \$961,439

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$961,439 (Nine Hundred Sixty-One Thousand, Four Hundred Thirty-Nine Dollars) to operate and maintain the Water Department, said appropriation to be offset by income received from the water users charges of an equal amount, or take any other action relative thereto. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article. This is a Special Warrant Article IAW RSA 32 and is paid by the water user fees.

WARRANT ARTICLE 22 - Chairman D'Amato asked if there were any questions on this Warrant Article and there were none.

ARTICLE 24 - Milford Bus Service - \$15,000

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 (Fifteen Thousand Dollars) for another year of funding for this bus service for citizens and senior citizens in need of transportation to and from Milford to Nashua for trips such as employment, medical, shopping, etc. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article. This is a Special Article IAW RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of 2 cents.

WARRANT ARTICLE 24 - Chairman D'Amato asked if there were any questions on this Warrant Article and there were none. Chairman D'Amato added that the Nashua Transit System had sent a note to the Board of

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Selectmen that stated that the NTS had provided Milford with service on an average of 441 rides per month from April through September 2002, more than had been expected, and gave further details of rider-ship.

ARTICLE 25 – Social Services \$21,680

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,680 (Twenty-One Thousand, Six Hundred Eighty Dollars) for the purpose of providing social service funding for Milford residents by the following agencies, or take any other action relative thereto. The Board of Selectmen supports the Article. The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article. This is a Special Article IAW RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of 2.5 cents.

- Milford Regional Counseling
- St. Joseph Community Services Meals
- Nashua Shelter
- Community Council Mental Health
- Keystone Hall
- Souhegan Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross
- Souhegan Valley Boys & Girls Club
- Souhegan Valley Resources
- Rape & Assault Services
- Souhegan Home & Hospice Care

WARRANT ARTICLE 25 - Chairman D'Amato introduced the Warrant Article by noting that these items had been cut out of the 2002 budget following the default budget being passed last year and asked Maria Brown, Welfare Director, to speak regarding these Warrant Articles. Ms. Brown noted that these services provided a variety of services to Milford residents. She noted that several thousand citizens were assisted by these services. Chairman D'Amato asked if there were any questions on this Warrant Article and there were none.

ARTICLE 26 - Pumpkin Festival, Christmas Decorations and Plantings \$20,000

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 (Twenty Thousand Dollars) for Pumpkin Festival support (\$15,500) by Public Works, Police, Fire, and Ambulance Departments; purchase and planting of flowers for the Oval and Stone Bridge areas (\$1,500); purchase of garland, etc. for Christmas decorations (\$3,000); or take any other action relative thereto. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article. This is a Special Article IAW RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of 3 cents.

WARRANT ARTICLE 26 - Chairman D'Amato introduced this Warrant Article by describing these items and the services this Warrant Article provided and introduced Andrea Galligher, a Mont Vernon resident, who is the Milford DO-IT Director. Ms. Galligher addressed the auditorium and thanked the Board of Selectmen and Budget Advisory Committee for supporting the Warrant Article. She wanted to let the audience know that the Pumpkin Festival has had tremendous economic value for the community and that in the last 13 years the non-profit organizations who are participated in the Festival have raised almost \$300,000 that has been placed directly back into the community through services provided. Chairman D'Amato asked if there were any questions and there were none.

ARTICLE 27 – Band Concerts - \$10,500 (\$6500 bands, 2500 sound system, 1500 crossing detail)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,500 (Ten Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars) for the purpose of restoring funds for the traditional summer evening Band Concerts, or take any other action relative thereto. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article. This is a Special Article IAW RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of 1 cents.

ARTICLE 28 – Fire Works \$10,500

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To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,500 (Ten Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars) for the purpose of providing a 4th of July type fireworks display at a time and location to be determined by the BOS. By request of the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article. This is a Special Article IAW RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of 1 cent.

ARTICLE 29 – Memorial, Veterans & Labor Day Parade Town Support \$6,600

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,600 (Six Thousand Six Hundred Dollars) for town support to the Memorial, Veterans and Labor Day Parades by Public Works, Police Department and other Town departments with only the aforementioned departmental support costs associated with the provision of these services to be charged against this appropriation, or take any other action relative thereto. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article. This is a Special Article IAW RSA 32. This Article has an estimated tax impact of less than 1 cent.

WARRANT ARTICLES 27, 28, & 29 - Chairman D'Amato introduced the Warrant Article by introducing Vice-Chairman Ruonala to speak regarding this Warrant Article. Vice-Chairman Ruonala discussed Warrant Articles 27 and 28 jointly. He noted that the voters had asked for these items and that it was felt that if they were wanted they should be voted on in this manner. If the indication through the vote were strong that they wanted them, they would be placed back in the budget. He added that these two items were not necessary items. He further went on to say that last year after the operations budget was defeated, the fireworks Warrant Article was passed. The Board of Selectmen had difficulty understanding that. He also advised that the reason that there were no fireworks last year was not because the operating budget had not passed and the fireworks had passed, it was because the Town was not able to contact the company in Jaffrey in time to schedule the performance. In conclusion, he stated that if the Warrant Article passes this year they would be certain to have the fireworks display scheduled. Vice-Chairman Ruonala asked if there were any questions.

Judy Parker, Milford citizen, asked if the wording for the Warrant Article could be changed so that fireworks could be had for Labor Day. Town Administrator Chambers noted that the Warrant Article was worded to say "4th of July type fireworks" so that it would be inclusive of Labor Day.

Fay Richey, Milford citizen, questioned if these two Warrant Articles passed then would the Board of Selectmen consider it a referendum and then therefore they would become line items in next years budget. Chairman D'Amato replied yes. Ms. Richey further asked if that did not apply to other Warrant Articles, such as social services, and asked how many Warrant Article were to become line items in next years budget, if they passed. Chairman D'Amato replied that these three Warrant Articles would, along with the parade. Ms. Richey then queried if the parade, the band concerts, the fireworks; social services; the Pumpkin Festival, etc. would then become line items next year. Chairman D'Amato noted that they would become line items. Ms. Richey asked if it was the Board of Selectmen's intention to put these items back in as line items to be negotiated with the Budget Advisory Committee and or at the Deliberative Session. Chairman D'Amato stated that that would be the Board of Selectmen's intention. Ms. Richey requested that it be stated clearly that that was the intention in information that was put out. Chairman D'Amato replied that the Board of Selectmen had made that part of the original Warrant Article but the Budget Advisory Committee requested that it be removed.

Terry Parker, Budget Advisory Committee, advised that they had asked the Board of Selectmen to take that phrase out of the Warrant Article because they did not want the vote of one year to tie the hands of the Town in future years. He noted therefore, that the voters should have the privilege of making the decision on these items on a yearly basis. He added that the Budget Advisory Committee did not feel that the voters wanted these items to go on in the future without voter input. He noted that the Budget Advisory Committee felt that the second part of it was that if the phrase remained in the Warrant Articles that perhaps many of them would fail the vote and did not want them to be defeated because they would be perpetuated. Terry Parker asked if there were any further questions.

Mr. Anderson replied that he wanted to speak about it again in a slightly different way. He stated that from his perspective there had been some publicity about some of the items being broken out of the budget and on to the Warrant Articles this year and that that had been the intention of the Board of Selectmen. The Budget Advisory Committee's intention was that these items not be mandates, but at the Board of Selectmen's discretion, some of

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these items would remain as Warrant Articles regularly and some would go into the budget, depending on the Town's support and the guidance it would give.

Vice-Chairman Ruonala added that the Board of Selectmen had to respond to that by noting that part of the responsibility of the Budget Advisory Committee is to advise the Board of Selectmen as to what they think the Board of Selectmen should support and not support. Vice-Chairman Ruonala stated that there were thirty-three Warrant Articles and if those items were placed back into the budget that would eliminate six Warrant Articles. Those six items would still come up in discussions between the Budget Advisory Committee and Board of Selectmen and if anyone felt strongly that those items should not be included then it will be brought up for discussion at the Deliberative Session. Vice-Chairman Ruonala stated that in his opinion the argument that the items should be placed in the Warrant Articles every year did not hold water.

Mr. Willette addressed the auditorium stating that he felt that he liked to see items placed as Warrant Articles because it did not inflate the budget, so he knows what is in the budget. Chairman D'Amato asked if there were any further questions and there were none.

ARTICLE 30 – Rescinding of Bonding Authority

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the \$2,500,000 (Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars) bonding authority authorized for the construction and equipping thereof of a Milford District Court, said authority established by a vote of the Town Meeting on 10 March 1998. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article. This Article has no tax impact.

WARRANT ARTICLE 30 - Chairman D'Amato introduced the Warrant Article by explaining the need to rescind the Warrant Article and asked if there were any questions.

Mr. O'Connell, Milford citizen, stated that he did not know when to bring it up, but that he felt that this was an appropriate place to do so, and that he was not addressing Warrant Article 30. However, he wanted to address the Warrant Article regarding the Pennichuck Water Works that appeared to be absent from this version of the Warrant Articles. Mr. O'Connell stated that it was his understanding that the Board of Selectmen had voted to join in the Memorandum of Understanding to consider that proposal. He noted that it was absent. Chairman D'Amato agreed that it was mistakenly omitted. Mr. O'Connell queried if there would be a Warrant Article regarding the proposed regional acquisition of Pennichuck Water Works. Town Administrator Chambers noted that if the hearing could continue onto the other Warrant Articles she would go make copies of the missing Warrant Article.

Remaining on the subject of Pennichuck Water Works, Chairman D'Amato noted that Nashua had voted to buy the system. Chairman D'Amato requested that Selectman Herman speak toward the Warrant Article further. Selectman Herman addressed the auditorium stating that the Town had signed the Memorandum of Understanding and that the Board of Selectmen were asking the voters to approve moving forward with formulating the Water District Charter. This would allow the Town of Milford to have a voice in the future development of this district. She added that anything that would come out of the Charter development would be brought back to the voters next year. Chairman D'Amato and Selectman Herman asked if there were further questions and there were not.

ARTICLE 31 – Petition Article, Modification of Existing Elderly Exemptions

Shall we modify the elderly exemptions from property tax in the Town of Milford, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$68,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$83,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$120,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$35,000 or, if married a combined net income of less than \$45,000 and own net assets not in excess of \$100,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. Article by petition. The Board of Selectmen does not support this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee does not this Article. (Petition received and verified 18 December 2002)

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WARRANT ARTICLE 31 - Chairman D'Amato opened the Public Hearing on this Warrant Article at 8:10 p.m. by stating that the Board of Selectmen did not support the Article because it would take too much out of the tax base and that there are other options for the elderly to protect them from losing their homes. Chairman D'Amato asked if there were any of the petitioner's in the audience who wanted to speak regarding this and there were not. Chairman D'Amato closed the Public Hearing on the Warrant Article at 8:20 p.m.

ARTICLE 32 – Petition Article - Labor Day Parade

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$4500.00 to help offset the cost of the Parade and Fireworks for the Labor Day Parade. Article by petition. The Board of Selectmen does not support this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee does not support this Article. (Petition received and verified 14 January 2003)

WARRANT ARTICLE 32 - Chairman D'Amato introduced this Warrant Article by stating that the funds for the parade had been cut last year due to the default budget passing. This year in Warrant Article 29 they proposed to change the way the monies were distributed by offering to pay for the services directly and not giving the money to put on the parade directly to the organizers.

ARTICLE 33 – Petition – Police Union Raises

We the undersigned, tax paying Milford NH voters, petition the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Milford NH to place onto a Warrant Article, for the Town Budget of the Year 2003, the appropriation of funds to cover the Milford Police Union Contract which is currently in arbitration. The amount to be appropriated is equal to the last Union offer of a 2% salary increase for the year 2002 and a 2% salary increase for the year 2003 for of all the unionized employees of the Milford Police Department, AFSCME Local 3657. This Article to be amended on or before the deliberative session, to show the actual dollar figures and cost to the taxpayer. These figures to be provided by the Town of Milford's Finance office. Article by petition. The Board of Selectmen does not support this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee does not support this Article. (Petition received and verified 14 January 2003)

WARRANT ARTICLE 33 - Chairman D'Amato introduced this Warrant Article by stating that Town Counsel felt that this would negate the negotiation process. He added that negotiation continued and that they were in mediation.

Mr. Hicks questioned if there was any estimate in the budget for the increase? Chairman D'Amato replied that no, there was not because it did not have to be funded because they did not have a contract. If at some point in the future a contract were negotiated then the increase would have to wait until the next year and be voted on by the Town or call for a Special Town Meeting.

George Durham, Milford citizen, Milford Police Officer, and member of the Union, noted that one of the reasons that this Warrant Article was petitioned was that they wanted to try and see if there did not have to be a Special Town Meeting. He also agreed that there was no increase included in the budget.

Mr. Archanbault addressed the auditorium asking to revisit Warrant Article 13. He noted multiple concerns regarding lighting, including pedestrian crossings, and the lines on the pavement needing to be repainted. He suggested that the Town spend some money to address these issues. Chairman D'Amato noted that the Board of Selectmen would take it under consideration.

Mr. Hicks addressed the auditorium stating that earlier he had asked what was in the budget regarding the purchasing, renting, or leasing of equipment and that the answer was half a truck and two cruisers. Mr. Hicks encouraged that all four cruisers be placed in the Warrant Article so that voters would know what they were voting for.

At this point in the meeting Town Administrator Chambers returned with copies of Warrant Article 14 on the proposed Regional Water District. Copies were distributed to everyone in attendance, and no questions were raised

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ARTICLE 14 – Pennichuck Water Works Acquisition

To see whether the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a joint agreement, pursuant to RSA 53-A, or other applicable enabling authority, with such other municipalities as have joined in a Memorandum of Understanding, (including any additional municipalities that may be added pursuant to the terms of said Memorandum of Understanding), on such terms and conditions as the Selectmen deem fit, the purpose of which agreement shall be to join with said municipalities in an effort to collectively acquire the assets or the stock of the Pennichuck Corporation, or its successors, to the extent permitted by law. There will be no impact on the municipal budget or property tax rate as a result of this warrant article. This warrant article requires a simple majority vote for passage. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article. The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article.

Mr. Anderson was asked by Ms. Richey to introduce the Budget Advisory Committee and he did so indicating that he was the Chairman of the Budget Advisory Committee, and that Terry Nostrand, Vice-Chairman, Therese Miller, Deanna Carter, Terry Parker, Joseph Stella, and Ryan Hansen were the remaining Budget Advisory Committee members. He also noted that Chuck Sweeney was absent due to illness and that one of the members had moved out of Town and ceased coming to meetings.

ARTICLE 34 - End of Meeting

To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

NB: The approximate total tax impact of these Warrant Articles, when you take into account the aggregate of appropriations, revenue and taxable land and building value increases, equals one dollar and ninety-nine cents.

Chairman D'Amato asked for any further questions and there being none, declared the Public Hearing on the budget closed at 8:30 p.m. and thanked the audience for coming. The Board of Selectmen recessed to the Board of Selectmen Meeting room for further discussion of the Warrant Articles.

Chairman D'Amato called the meeting to order at 8:45 p.m. in the Board of Selectmen meeting room.

Chairman D'Amato asked Town Administrator Chambers what the Board of Selectmen were going to address in this meeting, he suggested that they would be addressing Warrant Articles 3 and 4 Amendments and whether to retain Warrant Article 6. Town Administrator Chambers replied yes.

Chairman D'Amato opened discussion on Warrant Articles by noting that Warrant Article 14 regarding Pennichuck Water Works needed to be added back into the Warrant.

Chairman D'Amato advised that regarding Warrant Articles 3 and 4, perhaps Chief Douglas would like to speak, to give his input. Chief Douglas replied by noting that it would be a tough decision, but that in the end, what was heard during the Deliberative Session was that voters were not interested in spending a lot of money. Chief Douglas further noted that the Police Station building was in desperate need of being replaced, and gave many examples of the type of ongoing problems that were being encountered, and to therefore, please endorse construction on Perry Road for 3.2 million dollars, because he felt that the 5.6 million dollar South Street / BROX project would not pass.

Selectman O'Connell motioned to amend the Warrant Articles by withdrawing Warrant Article 3 to support Warrant Article 4, construction of the new Police Department facilities on Perry Road for 3.2 million dollars. Selectman Amato seconded. All were in favor.

Vice-Chairman Ruonala noted that the previous amendment would create a numbering problem in the Warrant Articles. Town Administrator Chambers offered to renumber the Warrant and suggested that the wording of Warrant Article 4 (Perry Road Construction) be changed to "and to address wastewater" rather than the current wording that implied waste removal by sewer lines.

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Vice-Chairman Ruonala added that the Police Station presentation for the Deliberative Session needed to contain an estimated market value of the current Police Station facility to answer any debate regarding the loss of a piece of industrial property if the new Police Station is to be constructed on Perry Road. Vice-Chairman Ruonala noted that Greg Heyn, Town Assessor, had given him a figure of \$410,000 for the current Police Station site. Selectman O'Connell inquired as to what the market value of the Perry Road piece of property was. Vice-Chairman Ruonala replied that it was probably quite similar. Chairman D'Amato noted that any Town property construction would be creating a tax loss, as no Town land or buildings had taxes collected on them.

Chairman D'Amato introduced the discussion of Warrant Article 6, Kaley Park construction, and noting that if the Parks and Recreation Commission did not want to support that Article. Selectman O'Connell noted that she did not want the Article removed. Bill Parker, Parks and Recreation Commission, noted that at the Commission meeting last week it was voted to not support the Article because they did not agree with the way the phasing was planned, they preferred to have the fields constructed first. Mr. Parker further advised that it was their feeling that if the fields were constructed first then they would have two years to become ready for use while the road improvements were being made. Chairman D'Amato noted that it was his opinion that the road should be constructed first, citing that if the fields were constructed without a road, the monies for the road might not ever be obtained. Mr. Parker also noted that if the fields were built first then there would be more pressure to build the road. Chairman D'Amato added that coming to an agreement with St. Joseph's Hospital regarding the purchase of the land for the turning lane was near fruition. Vice-Chairman Ruonala noted that with all due respect to the Parks and Recreation Commission the Board of Selectmen had to decide how to move forward with Warrant Article 6. Vice-Chairman Ruonala motioned to retain Warrant Article 6. Selectman Amato seconded. All were in favor.

Town Administrator Chambers opened discussion of Warrant Article 28, Fireworks, by noting that Mr. Parker had mentioned that the Parks and Recreation had not requested the Warrant Article and that the Article had been written that way for months and she was uncertain how they had come to indicate that. Vice-Chairman Ruonala motioned to have the statement "By request of the Parks and Recreation Commission" removed from Warrant Article 28. Selectman Amato seconded. All were in favor. Vice-Chairman Ruonala also requested that Town Administrator Chambers contact the Budget Advisory Committee to advise them that the statement had been removed. Chairman D'Amato asked if there were any further questions or comments.

Chief Douglas inquired if there was room to move the Police Cruisers into the budget. Vice-Chairman Ruonala replied that when Warrant Article 23 is discussed at the Deliberative Session those items that have brought controversy would be highlighted. Town Administrator Chambers indicated that it was clearly defined in the Voter's Guide.

At this point in the meeting, several members of the Budget Advisory Committee entered the Board of Selectmen meeting room and joined the discussion.

Town Administrator Chambers requested of the Chairman that she be given the opportunity to inform the Budget Advisory Committee members of the changes to Warrant Article 28 and she did so.

Chairman D'Amato indicated to Mr. Anderson that the Board of Selectmen were only going to be supporting one Police Station Warrant Article, by withdrawing Warrant Article 3 and replacing it with Warrant Article 4 for construction on Perry Road.

Selectman Herman requested clarification regarding a sheet that Town Administrator Chambers had regarding the benefits that were taken into account regarding part-time positions that were rolling into full-time positions this year; what was the final number. Town Administrator Chambers replied that she would have to consult the sheet. Selectman Herman noted that it was her belief that it had started with nine but had decreased to six and that it was not only positions that were going from part-time to full-time. Town Administrator Chambers indicated that there were new full-time positions such as the new Planning Technician and the Fire Department Trainer as well as additional hours for the Recreation Department, the Welfare Department, Planning Administration, and the EMT and Police Officer positions from last year, and one Library position that had increased hours. Selectman Herman further noted that in the budget under the benefits package line item there was still coverage of the shift of two new full-time employees this year and the addition of five for next year.

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Selectman Herman inquired as to when they would address the \$25,000 budget increase from the increase in our Worker's Compensation rate increase. Vice-Chairman Ruonala noted that it should be considered over the weekend and discussed next week at the Monday, January 20, 2003 at 4 p.m. meeting.

There being no further business to come before this Meeting, the Board adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Chairman

Vice-Chairman
